542

FANTASTIC FOUR®

A MARVEL® COMICS EVENT

CIVIL WAR™

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MCDUFFIE

MCKONE

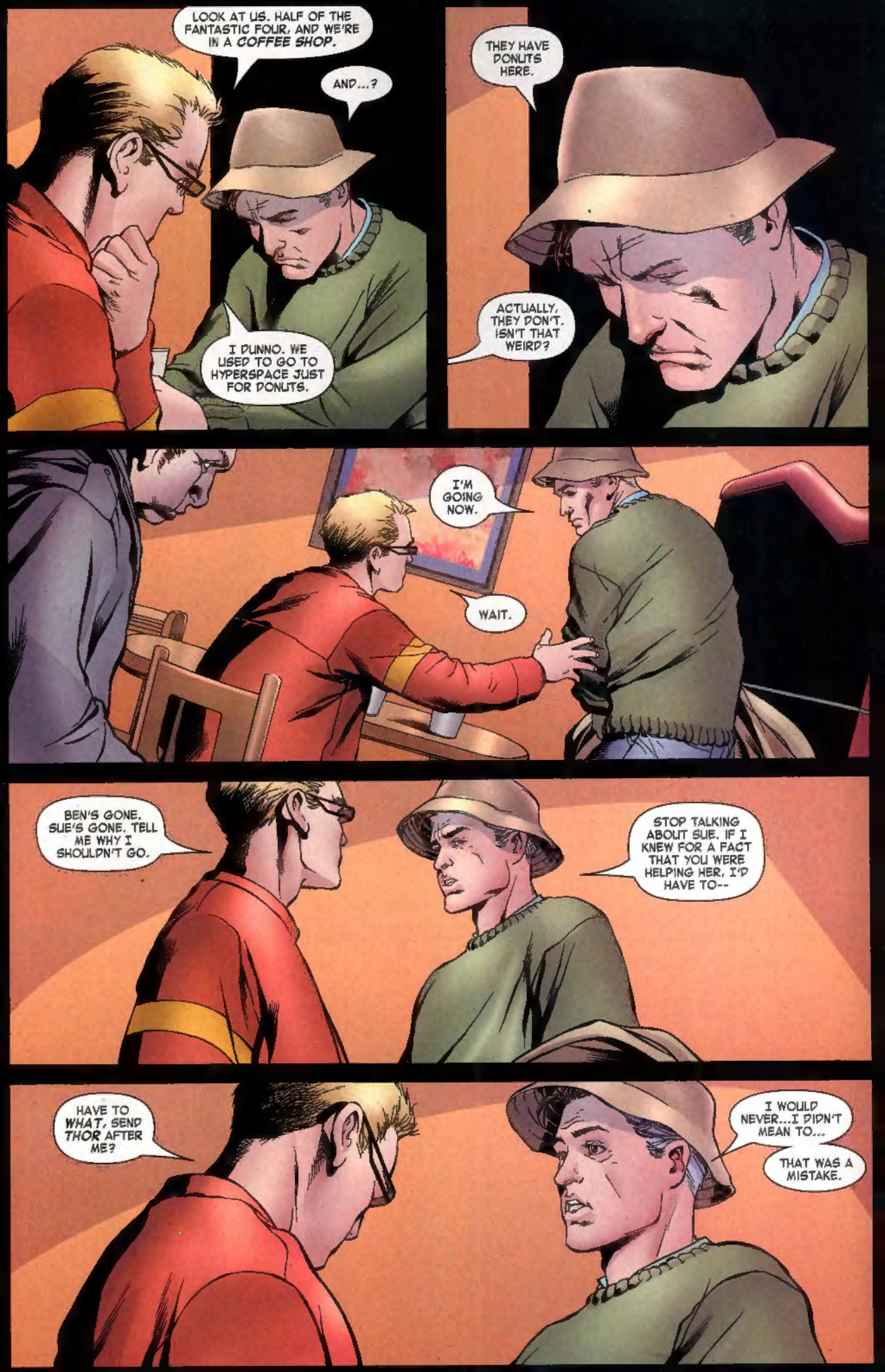
A COFFEE SHOP, PARK SLOPE, BROOKLYN...
EXCUSE ME. A WHILE BACK, I ORDERED--
--A VENTI MOCHA FRAPPACHINO AND A GRANDE HOUSE BLEND DECAF. IT WAS TWO MINUTES AGO.
IT SEEMS LONGER.
TWO MINUTES. AND YOU'VE COME OVER TO ASK ME ABOUT IT TWICE.
THE COFFEE HERE IS REALLY INTERESTING.
AS SOON AS YOUR ORDER'S READY, THEY'LL GIVE IT TO YOU. AT THE OTHER END OF THE COUNTER.
I DON'T MIND WAITING HERE.
TELL YOU THE TRUTH? I DON'T MIND YOU WAITING HERE, EITHER.

WE USED TO GO TO HYPERSPACE JUST FOR DONUTS

DWAYNE McDUFFIE WRITER | MIKE McKONE PENCILER | ANDY LANNING & CAM SMITH INKERS | PAUL MOUNTS COLORIST | VC'S RUS WOOTON LETTERER | MOLLY LAZER & AUBREY SITTERSON ASSISTANT EDITORS | TOM BREVOORT EDITOR | JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF | DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

PERSONAL SERVICE.
THANKS.
USE A CUP SLEEVE! THAT'S VERY HOT.
THAT'S OKAY, I LIKE THE HEAT.
STAY VIGILANT. I'M PRETTY SURE I'LL BE COMING BACK LATER FOR SOMETHING ELSE.
I'LL BE RIGHT HERE...
HERE YOU GO, REED. DECAF, BECAUSE YOU'RE SO GRUMPY LATELY.
WHY ARE WE HERE, JOHNNY?
YOU KIDDING ME? DO YOU SEE THAT GIRL AT THE COUNTER?
NO, I AM NOT, IN ANY WAY, KIDDING.

YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO ME, YOU WANTED TO MEET SOMEWHERE AWAY FROM THE BAXTER BUILDING, SO HERE I AM. BUT I'M VERY BUSY, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR GA--
WHY ARE YOU WEARING GLASSES?
IT'S A DISGUISE, SO I WON'T BE RECOGNIZED.
THAT CAN'T POSSIBLY WORK.
OH, AND I GUESS THAT *FISHING HAT* MAKES YOU THE MAN OF A THOUSAND FACES.
THIS ISN'T A DISGUISE. I *LIKE* THIS HAT.


LOOK AT US. HALF OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR, AND WE'RE IN A COFFEE SHOP.
AND...?
I DUNNO. WE USED TO GO TO HYPERSPACE JUST FOR DONUTS.
THEY HAVE DONUTS HERE.
ACTUALLY, THEY DON'T. ISN'T THAT WEIRD?
I'M GOING NOW.
WAIT.
BEN'S GONE. SUE'S GONE. TELL ME WHY I SHOULDN'T GO.
STOP TALKING ABOUT SUE. IF I KNEW FOR A FACT THAT YOU WERE HELPING HER, I'D HAVE TO--
HAVE TO WHAT, SEND THOR AFTER ME?
I WOULD NEVER...I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
THAT WAS A MISTAKE.

SEEMS TO ME YOU'RE MAKING A LOT OF MISTAKES LATELY.
I DON'T THINK I AM.
SUE DOES. BEN DOES. I MIGHT.
THINK ABOUT THAT, REED. THREE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LITERALLY FOLLOWED YOU INTO HELL, AND WE WON'T FOLLOW YOU NOW.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE STAKES.
EXPLAIN THEM TO ME. TELL ME WHY.
THE REGISTRATION ACT IS THE LAW. WE HAVE TO FOLLOW IT, EVEN IF WE THINK IT'S WRONG.
SINCE WHEN? YOU DON'T EVEN OBEY THE LAWS OF PHYSICS.
THAT'S UNFAIR.

WHY? YOU BREAK THE LAW ALL THE TIME. THE NIGHT WE ALL GOT OUR POWERS? YOU STOLE THE SPACESHIP.
THE FF OVERTHROWS AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL GOVERNMENT THREE TIMES A YEAR. WE'VE DEPOSED EVIL WARLORDS, DEFIED GODS.
NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN WE TURN ON OUR FRIENDS BECAUSE OF A BAD LAW?
I KNOW IT LOOKS THAT WAY, JOHNNY. BUT IT'S NOT A BAD LAW. PEOPLE LIKE US HAVE POWER THAT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO MOST OF HUMANITY.
LACK OF UNDERSTANDING LEADS TO FEAR. THAT FEAR IS ALREADY THERE, FESTERING. WITHOUT THE LAW, WHAT COMES NEXT IS TOO HORRIBLE TO--
THE LAW IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

AND THE ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS?
ONLY 1.396% OF THE TIME. AND THIS IS ONE OF THOSE RARE OCCASIONS.
ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE?
TO A MATHEMATICAL CERTAINTY.
ALTHOUGH IT COULDN'T HURT TO HAVE SOMEONE CHECK MY WORK...
C'MON, WE HAVE AN ERRAND TO RUN.
OKAY. BUT AFTERWARDS I HAVE TO HELP THE RESISTANCE SHUT YOU DOWN.
NOTED.
WHERE ARE WE GOING, ANYWAY?

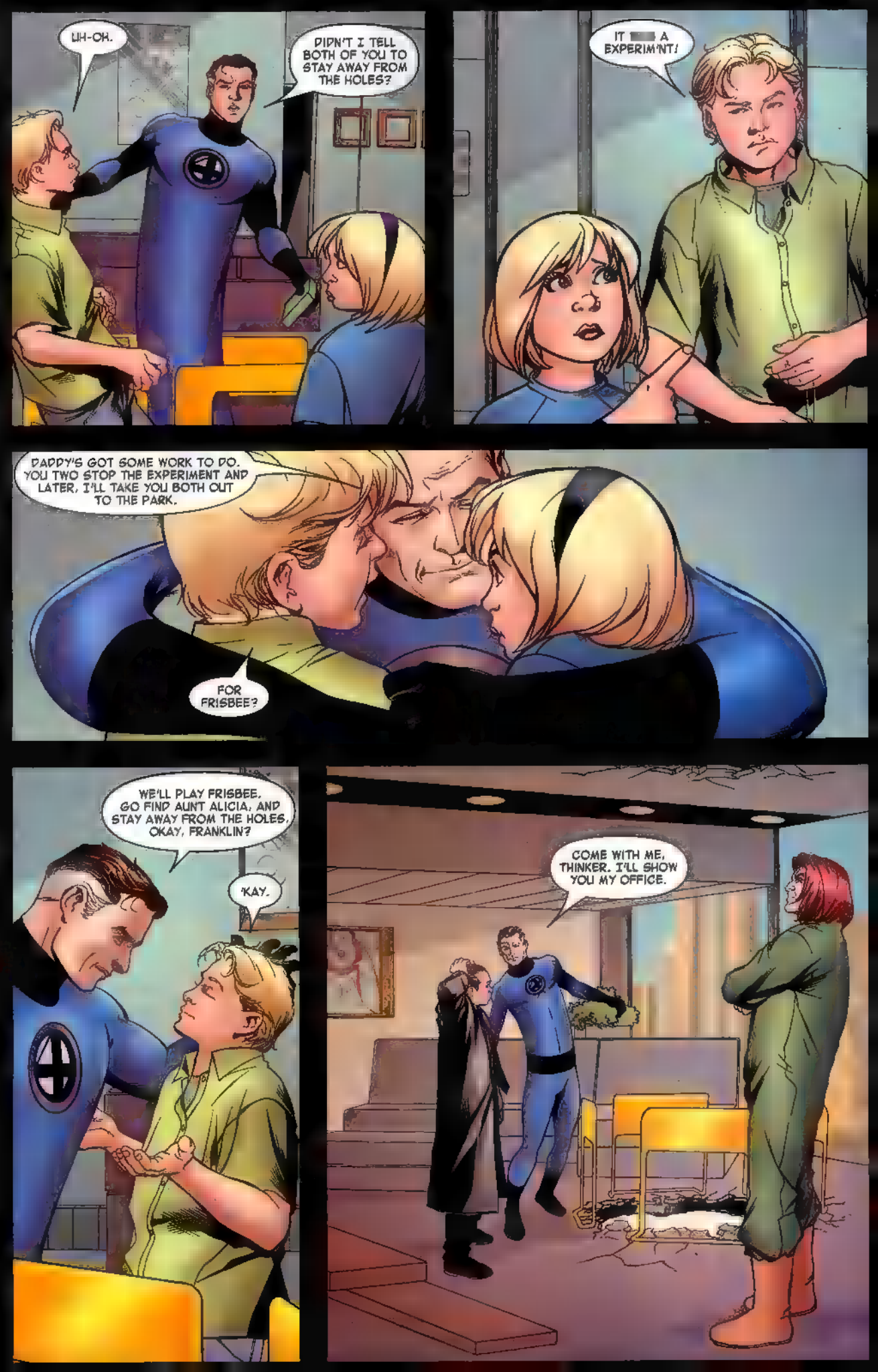
A LONG-ABANDONED FACTORY. SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS.
TUNK TUNK TUNK
YOUR SECURITY HERE IS OUTSTANDING, THINKER. I COULD ONLY DISCOVER FIVE WAYS IN THAT DIDN'T REQUIRE THE USE OF FORCE.
RICHARDS!
AND ONLY TWO THAT WOULD HAVE ESCAPED YOUR ATTENTION.
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
I'M A GENIUS. ONCE I PUT MY MIND TO SOMETHING--
MY INTELLECT IS ALSO NOT INCONSIDERABLE, RICHARDS--

--DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE THE MAD THINKER WOULD LACK AN ESCAPE PLAN FROM HIS OWN LAIR?
AHHH!
ZZAT
ZZAT
ZZAT
WHAT...?
AN INSULATING COFFEE CUP SLEEVE.
I EXPECT YOU'LL FIND THE DOOR TOO HOT TO HANDLE.
SSSSSSS
REED WANTS TO TALK. I WANT TO SET YOU ON FIRE. UP TO YOU.

CALL OFF YOUR LAPDOG. I'M NOT INTIMIDATED.
SURE YOU ARE. I CAN LIGHT MYSELF ON FIRE.
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH ME? I DON'T HAVE ANY OUTSTANDING WARRANTS.
THIS ISN'T THAT KIND OF VISIT. I [redacted] A FAVOR.
I WANT YOU DEAD. WHY SHOULD I HELP YOU?
BECAUSE THAT BUSINESS WITH THE PUPPET MASTER HAD YOUR FINGERPRINTS ALL OVER IT.
PROVE IT.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DIDN'T MAKE [redacted] SINGLE MISTAKE? THAT IF I INVESTED, SAY, TEN MINUTES OF UNINTERRUPTED THOUGHT TO CONNECTING YOU TO THOSE CRIMES, THAT I'D FAIL?
WHAT [redacted] THE ODDS, THINKER?
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, DOCTOR RICHARDS?

THE BAXTER BUILDING. HEADQUARTERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
IT BEGAN WHEN I WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD...
THAT'S MY CUE TO CUT AND RUN.
DING
EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR RICHARDS? JOHN PORTER, DAMAGE CONTROL. USUALLY I TALK TO BEN ABOUT THESE THINGS, BUT...
DO YOU HAVE AN ESTIMATE?
SEVEN [redacted] EIGHTY-NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS. THE MODULAR CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING REALLY KEEPS THE REPAIR COSTS DOWN.
THAT WAS MY INTENTION. WHEN WILL THE REPAIRS BE COMPLETE?
THREE DAYS. WE COULD DO IT FASTER, BUT THE SECURITY AROUND THIS PLACE--
A NECESSARY EVIL. THESE DAYS.

WE JUST APPRECIATE KEEPING YOUR BUSINESS, SIR. FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, HALLIBURTON'S BEEN GETTING ALL THE WORK NO-BID.
BUT THEY ALWAYS GO SUBSTANTIALLY OVER ESTIMATE. WE'RE HAPPY WITH YOUR SERVICE.
I APPRECIATE--
OW!
WHAT IS THIS?
THROW ANOTHER ONE, VAL! SAY "FIRE IN THE HOLE!"
FIWE IN TH'OLE!


UH-OH.
DIDN'T I TELL BOTH OF YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM THE HOLES?
IT [redacted] A EXPERIM'NT!
DADDY'S GOT SOME WORK TO DO. YOU TWO STOP THE EXPERIMENT AND LATER, I'LL TAKE YOU BOTH OUT TO THE PARK.
FOR FRISBEE?
WE'LL PLAY FRISBEE. GO FIND AUNT ALICIA, AND STAY AWAY FROM THE HOLES, OKAY, FRANKLIN?
'KAY.
COME WITH ME, THINKER. I'LL SHOW YOU MY OFFICE.

THE CATACOMBS. PARIS.
I HATE THIS PLACE.
YOU SHOULD ■ HONORED. MOST OF LES CARRIERES DE PARIS ARE, HOW DO YOU SAY? OFF-LIMITS.
BIG HONOR, ANAÏS. I GIT TA TAKE A SHORTCUT THROUGH A MASS GRAVE.
THERE ARE OVER 300 KILOMETERS OF TUNNELS HERE. IT ■ NOT A SHORTCUT.
IT IS A WAY TO SNEAK INTO THE SECRET HYDRA BASE THAT LE DOCTEUR Q HAS DISCOVERED.
SO WHY CAN'T LE DOCTEUR Q OR SOME OF THE OTHER HEROES DES PARIS TAKE OUT THE HYDRA BASE?
MY GREAT STONE OURS DE NOUNOURS PRETENDS HE DOES NOT WISH TO VANQUISH EVIL, BUT ANAÏS, SHE KNOWS BETTER.
I'M JUST WONDERIN' IF THERE ARE ANY SUPER-VILLAINS ■ PARIS WHO DON'T LIVE UNNERGROUND.
COME, ■ ■ VERY CLOSE. THEY WILL NEVER EXPECT US TO ATTACK FROM--

GRÊLE, HYDRA, ATTAQUE!
MAILLOCHE!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, BEAUTIFUL. THAT JUST MEANS--
--IL EST TEMPS DE FOUTRE!
PARDON?
WHAT?
YOU SAID, "FOUTRE." I THINK YOU MEANT TO SAY, "IL EST TEMPS DE BARTE!"
OH. GUESS I GOT EXCITED.
APPARENTLY SO.
20 MINUTES LATER...
SO WHAT'S NEXT? KNOW ABOUT ANY OTHER CRIMES AROUND HERE?
OH, BEN...
WE HAVE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME TOGETHER. BUT THE MAN I'VE COME TO KNOW, WHO RISKS HIS LIFE FOR STRANGERS, SURELY HE CANNOT ABANDON HIS FRIENDS.

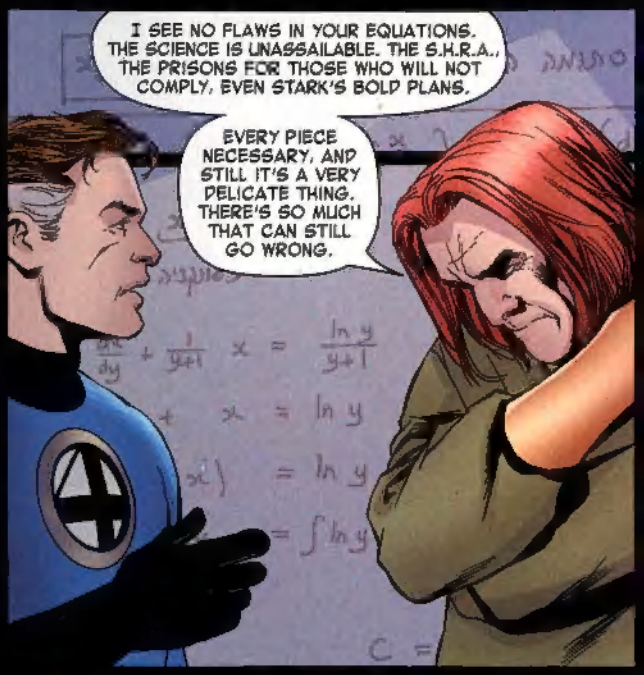
UH. ALSO, I'M KINDA SEEIN' SOMEBODY.
YOU'RE IN PARIS. AN AFFAIR HERE DOES NOT COUNT.
SMEK
DID I JUST GET DUMPED?
HEY, BEN!
MATCHSTICK! WHAT BRINGS YA TO THE CITY OF LIGHT?
YOU. YOU MOVE TO FRANCE WITHOUT TALKING TO ME?
AND ALICIA TOLD ME YOU DIDN'T SHOW AT GOLIATH'S FUNERAL.
I COULDN'T FACE UP TA IT ALL. I JUST HADDA GET AWAY. I'M SORRY.
YEAH.
SUE SAYS REED HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE THOR CLONE.
NOT A CHANCE. HE AIN'T *THAT* FAR GONE.

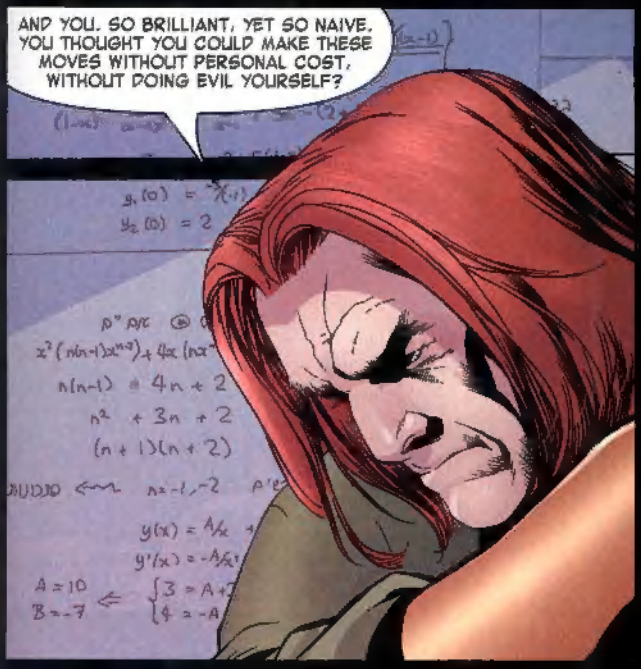
PROBABLY NOT. BUT HE *IS* HAVING A REALLY TOUGH TIME. ALL OF US ARE.
FOSTER WAS A GOOD BUDDY--
"--REMEMBER WHEN WE USEDTA ALL PLAY POKER?"
I THINK WE'RE PLAYING POKER RIGHT NOW. THE STAKES JUST GOT SERIOUS, IS ALL.
MEBBE SO.
WE NEED YOU, BEN. PLEASE COME BACK.
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
OKAY. I WON'T PUSH. BUT I'M LEAVING YOU TRANSPORTATION, IF YOU NEED IT.
THANKS, KID. WE'LL TALK.

THE BAXTER BUILDING. MANHATTAN.
I'VE [redacted] ALLOWED ANYONE ELSE IN [redacted]. IT'S MY PRIVATE SANCTUARY. A PLACE WHERE [redacted] CAN THINK.
ALL OF THESE EQUATIONS, YOU'RE WORKING OUT ONE PROBLEM.
SOCIAL DYNAMICS...
YOU MAY BE THE ONLY PERSON ON EARTH EQUIPPED TO CHECK MY CONCLUSIONS.
THIS IS BRILLIANT. BEYOND *ANYTHING* I'VE EVER ACHIEVED.
[redacted] I WAS 12 YEARS OLD I READ *"FOUNDATION,"* A SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL BY ISAAC ASIMOV. EVEN THEN IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR ME TO [redacted] ANYTHING BESIDES NON-FICTION...
NO WONDER I NEVER BEAT YOU. I WAS A CAVEMAN, BRAGGING ABOUT FIRE AND YOU WERE SPLITTING THE ATOM.
...BUT THIS BOOK HAD [redacted] IDEA [redacted] IT THAT EXCITED MY IMAGINATION, ASIMOV CALLED IT *PSYCHOHISTORY.*
IT [redacted] A FICTIONAL [redacted] OF SCIENCE THAT USED EQUATIONS TO PREDICT FUTURE TRENDS BY MATHEMATICALLY MODELING HISTORY.
AND YOU LIKED IT SO MUCH THAT YOU INVENTED IT.
IT WAS THE FIRST ENTIRELY NEW FIELD [redacted] EVER CREATED.

I CAN PREDICT SOCIETAL TRENDS TO AN EXTREMELY HIGH DEGREE OF ACCURACY. I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO IT FOR DECADES.
IT'S USELESS FOR PREDICTING THE ACTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS. YOU MAY AS WELL TRY TO PREDICT WHEN A PARTICULAR NUCLEUS WILL DECAY IN AN ISOTOPE. IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT YOU CAN PREDICT WHEN THE ENTIRE RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE WILL BE SAFE.
PRECISELY. TONY STARK SAW IT COMING FIRST. HIS PROCEDURE WAS UNDISCIPLINED. BASED ON HUNCHES, NOT SCIENCE.
LIKE HIS TRILLION DOLLAR STOCK PORTFOLIO.
THAT'S WHY I RAN THE NUMBERS.
A SERIES OF SOCIETAL EARTHQUAKES, POWERFUL ENOUGH TO UTTERLY DESTROY HUMANITY. CONFLICTS BEYOND ANYTHING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED. THE DEATHS OF BILLIONS.
I RAN THE NUMBERS, AGAIN AND AGAIN.
EVERY SCENARIO, WORSE THAN THE PREVIOUS. NO FORCE THAT COULD BE APPLIED ANYWHERE TO MAKE A BETTER OUTCOME, UNTIL...
THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT.
THAT WAS ONLY PART OF IT. MANY DISTASTEFUL ACTS WOULD HAVE TO OCCUR, VERY CLOSELY TOGETHER, IN *PRECISELY* THE RIGHT ORDER, IF *NOT*...
SO YOU CHOSE THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS.

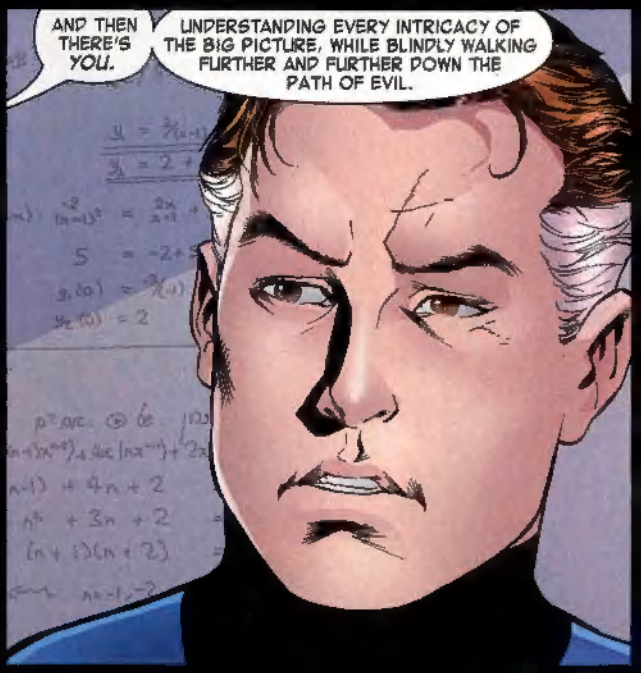
THE LESSER OF THIRTY-ONE EVILS, EACH MORE HORRIBLE THAN THE NEXT...
IT WAS THE ONLY POSSIBLE CHOICE. IN THE OTHER SCENARIOS, MANKIND DOES NOT SURVIVE.


I SEE NO FLAWS IN YOUR EQUATIONS. THE SCIENCE IS UNASSAILABLE. THE S.H.R.A., THE PRISONS FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT COMPLY, EVEN STARK'S BOLD PLANS.
EVERY PIECE NECESSARY, AND STILL IT'S A VERY DELICATE THING. THERE'S SO MUCH THAT CAN STILL GO WRONG.


AND YOU. SO BRILLIANT, YET SO NAIVE. YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD MAKE THESE MOVES WITHOUT PERSONAL COST, WITHOUT DOING EVIL YOURSELF?

STARK DOESN'T HAVE THE MIND TO APPRECIATE THE SUBTLETIES OF YOUR EQUATIONS.
BUT HE DOES HAVE THE GUT INSTINCTS OF A FUTURIST AND THE POLITICAL SENSE TO KNOW THAT HIS ACTIONS WOULD MAKE HIM REVILED AMONG HIS FORMER FRIENDS IN THE SUPER HERO COMMUNITY.

AND HE'S MAN ENOUGH TO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, EVEN KNOWING FULL WELL WHAT IT WILL COST HIM.
FEW OUTSIDE OF THIS ROOM WILL EVER UNDERSTAND THE SACRIFICE HE'S MADE. EVEN IF HE WINS.


AND THEN THERE'S YOU.
UNDERSTANDING EVERY INTRICACY OF THE BIG PICTURE, WHILE BLINDLY WALKING FURTHER AND FURTHER DOWN THE PATH OF EVIL.

I'VE NEVER MANAGED TO BEAT YOU, REED RICHARDS. BUT NOW I'VE SEEN YOU LOSE.
"FOR WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN, IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?"
YOU CAN SHOW YOURSELF NOW, MRS. RICHARDS.
SO IT'S NOT THE LAW, OR YOUR POOR, PERSECUTED UNCLE.
SUE?!
HOW DID YOU KNOW SHE WAS HERE?
YOUR METHODOLOGY IS, AS YOU SAY, USELESS FOR PREDICTING THE ACTIONS OF ANY SINGLE PERSON. I HAVE ANOTHER TECHNIQUE FOR THAT.
IT'S CALLED "COMMON SENSE."
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS, REED? HOW COULD YOU LIE TO ME?
I WAS TRYING TO PROTECT YOU!
I'M YOUR WIFE, NOT YOUR CHILD. JOHNNY AND BEN ARE YOUR FRIENDS.
BUT VAL AND FRANKLIN ARE MY CHILDREN, AND I'M GOING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SAVE THEIR LIVES.
I DON'T BUY IT, REED. WE'VE BEATEN THE ODDS BEFORE, JUST BY DOING THE RIGHT THING. I'M WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA.
WE'RE GOING TO BEAT THE ODDS AGAIN.
NO. DON'T YOU SEE? YOU'RE NOT.
TO BE CONCLUDED...

Fantastic Four Fan Page

Dear People in Charge of the FANTASTIC FOUR,

FANTASTIC FOUR #541 was great! CIVIL WAR as a whole has been rather hit and miss for me, but its entire existence has been justified by this one issue (and I'm a jaded PhD student studying Literature, so that means a lot coming from me).

I haven't had this much fun reading a comic since--well, since the FRANKLIN RICHARDS Thanksgiving special (but that's a Fantastic Four-related comic). Honestly--I'll be sad to see JMS go. It's the nature of comics that writers and artists move on, but JMS has shown he can handle the sublime, the ridiculous and everything in between.

One question: was the character Anais (the exiled cat queen) a reference to Animala from the movie "The Lost Skeleton of Cadavra"? It sure seemed like it--if so, kudos to JMS for his taste in movies!

Ivan Wolfe
Austin, Texas

I'm glad you had such a great time reading FF #541, Ivan! We had fun making it. However, we aren't perfect, as the next batch of letters from our astute readers will show...

Hi there,

I know it has probably already been pointed out but the writers & editors missed a HUGE mistake in issue #541. During the introduction of the French super heroes, La Lumiere Bleue is the one that supposedly "prowls the Louvre museum" during the night. But, when the fight starts, Ben talks with Detective Fantome about his prowling the Louvre every night. I know this is an honest mistake but very glaring. Perhaps glaring enough for a No-Prize?

Chris Doar
Greer, SC

Dear FF Crew,

I started reading comic books in the mid-seventies. I was first reading them in French from Les éditions Héritage in Quebec. How many wonderful moments I've spent with L'étonnant Spidér-Man, Le puissant Thor and, of course, Les Quatres Fantastiques. For me, going to the convenience store each Saturday morning to get my 2 new released titles was the highlight of my week. When I got a little bit older, say, around 16, I am ashamed to say that I stopped reading comics on a regular basis. It took 20 years, and the Straczynski/Romita Jr. magnificent work on Spider-Man to bring me back to comics. I never wrote any letter to a publisher, this one is my first and here's why: Fantastic Four 541 was one of the most exciting single issues I've read for a long time. I found that Ben Grimm's quest for a more innocent, almost childish, vision of super-heroing very touching, and it brought me back to those wonderful years when I was reading comics on the counter of the convenience store at the corner of my street in Montreal.

I am a big fan already of Les Heros de Paris, old-style super heroes fighting old-style villains. One thing I will ask you to clarify: who stalks the Louvre at midnight? On page 12, you say it's La Lumière Bleue, but on page 23, the Thing speaks to Detective Fantôme as if he was the Louvre's stalker (which, I believe, makes more sense anyway for a ghost).

Forgive me, though, if I point out to you some French spelling oddities that you may want to rectify if we are to see the French super-héros again. First, Les héros, in French, does not have and "e" between the "o" and the "s". We should read Les Héros de Paris, instead of Les Héroes de Paris.

Also, on page 7, we should read La rose et la plume, and not Le rose et la plume. And on page 18, the Thing should say "Il est temps de se battre" and not "Il est temps de battre," but since we don't expect Benjamin Grimm to know his French grammar perfectly, this one makes his battle cry in French more realistic, actually, and my advice will be to keep it that way. Now, since English is not my mother tongue, I just hope you won't find too many mistakes in my writing and, if you are to print this letter, feel free to rectify any of my spelling mistakes.

Thank you for all the wonderful readings you provide us with and keep up the good work. I really hope we haven't seen the last of the team-up between the Thing and Les Héros de Paris.

Normand Richardson
Montreal, Qc

Dear Mr. Brevoort and the rest of Fantastic Crew,

Did Detective Fantome and La Lumiere Bleue switch personalities after a few pages? On page 10-11, you describe the Blue Light as the character who "prowls the Louvre Museum like a phantom in the night." Then on page 19, Ben and the Fantome are seen fighting the rock monsters, Ben asks him why he prowls the Louvre every night? One of those pages didn't get caught and I'm claiming it as my chance at a No-Prize.

Whaddya say to that?

Matt Claxton
Moore, Oklahoma

Dear Marvel,

I picked up a FANTASTIC FOUR comic when this entire CIVIL WAR was about to begin and have not been able to stop reading them since. I love the fact that the series is showing how something can split a group so badly and how it follows each member as they take what action they think is right. I 100% agree with Grimm and the actions he takes. He should not be forced to pick sides when he has so many friends on each side. Both sides have certain good points to them but they are both trying to reach their goals the wrong way.

The only problem I have found in the FF series that really bugs me takes place in issue #541. When Adamantine is introducing Les Heroes De Paris to Grimm he says that La Lumiere Bleue (The Blue Light) "prowls the Louvre museum like a phantom in the night." But later during the fight Grimm asks Detective Fantome (The Phantom Detective) why he prowls the Louvre every night. Did I miss something here or did Grimm misunderstand Adamantine? Maybe the unthinkable went down and Doctor Doom forced a writer or someone to make mistakes in order to throw me off! Well, I am on to him. Maybe it's time for a No-Prize or maybe I'm going crazy.

Until Doctor Doom opens a mental health clinic
MAKE MINE MARVEL!!

Gene Maddox
Griffin, Ga

FF Team,

A-ha! In FF #541, Adamantine announces that Le Lumiere Bleue 'prowls the Louvre museum like a phantom in the night', but later, Ben seems to think it is Detective Fantome who prowls the museum, and Fantome confirms it. Is that a mistake? No, it can't be! There's no such thing as a mistake in a Marvel title - they're just chances for No-Prizes!

The 'error' can be easily explained: Detective Fantome *does* prowl the Louvre museum at night... and Le Lumiere Bleue prowls the Louvre museum in the same manner as Detective Fantome. He is like 'Detective *Fantome* in the night.' And, of course, Adamantine told Ben about Fantome while heading from lunch to the confrontation with Rene.

See? Simple. Sorta.

Adrian J. Watts
Melbourne, Australia

That's a good explanation, Adrian! However, the simple truth of it is that we editors screwed this one up. Sorry, folks.

See you next month for the FF's Sapphire Anniversary!

Molly Lazer

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